

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES FULL 2-YEAR LIST OF 908 HIGHWAY AND BRIDGE PROJECTS AS PART OF N.C. MOVING AHEAD! INITIATIVE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today rolled out the full 2-year list of 908 highway and bridge projects as part of his innovative \$700 million transportation and economic stimulus package he proposed earlier this year.

"These projects will not only bring a new level of safety and mobility to the state, they also will bring economic relief to thousands of families in need of jobs," Easley said. (See attached project list by highway division. The list also is available on the web at http://www.ncdot.org.)

"Projects will be undertaken in all 100 counties," he said. "These new transportation improvements will significantly strengthen our state's economic competitiveness and set the stage for even more economic development in the future.

"The great value of transportation jobs is that they cannot be exported," Easley said. "Moving Ahead! projects will draw upon the local workforce and help the people who matter the most – our families and neighbors. The projects announced today equate to a continuous wave of new jobs for the next two years."

In August, Easley signed into law the program to use \$700 million in Highway Trust Fund money for highway preservation, modernization and public transportation. He also announced the first round of 28 highway projects. The General Assembly approved the legislation, House Bill 48, in July.

More than 500 widening and resurfacing projects are targeted on such major highways as N.C. 43 in Pitt County; N.C. 55 in Sampson County; N.C. 96 in Franklin and Granville counties; N.C. 150 in Lincoln and Iredell counties; N.C. 251 in Buncombe County; N.C. 343 in Camden County; U.S. 64 in Davidson and Randolph counties; U.S. 158 in Guilford and Rockingham counties; U.S. 52 in Surry County; U.S. 401 in Hoke County; and U.S. 258 in Lenoir and Jones counties.

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